

**SECRET**

DDI-243-63

8 February 1963

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT: Bloc Personnel in Cuba**

1. In addition to the estimated 17,000 Soviet troops and military technicians in Cuba, we believe that from 3,500 to 5,000 other bloc personnel are there. Of this number, we believe that between 1,000 and 2,000 are concerned with military activity and that between 2,500 and 3,000 are concerned with economic activity.

2. We believe that most of the 1,000 to 2,000 military non-Soviet personnel from the Bloc are Czechs. There may also be a few Chinese. They are believed to be serving as instructors and technicians with the Cuban forces. Our evidence for this portion of the estimate is not firm and hence the figure is subject to a considerable margin of error. We do not believe, however, that the number of non-Soviet bloc military personnel in Cuba is much smaller than 1,000 and certainly not greater than 2,000. We find no credible evidence, for instance, to substantiate persistent rumors that large numbers of Chinese military personnel are in Cuba. These rumors probably result from the drafting since early 1961 into the Cuban militia of overseas Chinese residents in Cuba. This group numbers about 30,000.

3. We estimate that from 2,500 to 3,000 bloc economic specialists are in Cuba. About two-thirds (1,500 to 2,000) of these are Soviets, most of whom

25X1  
25X1

**SECRET**

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

**SECRET**

are working as agricultural specialists; roughly 600 Soviet industrial specialists and technicians are believed to be working full-time in Cuba. The East European satellites have an estimated 700 to 1,000 industrial specialists and technicians in Cuba, mainly Czechs, East Germans, and Poles. An estimated 200 Chinese Communists are working in Cuban agriculture.

4. Hundreds of other bloc specialists, tourists, officials, and representatives pass in and out of Cuba each month, but there is no method by which it is presently possible to work up a reasonable estimate of the total number present at any one time.

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - OGC  
✓1 - ODDI  
1 - OAD/CI  
✓1 - OAD/RR  
1 - D/I/RR  
1 - LACU/CI  
1 - Mil Div/CI  
1 - St/CS Chrono

RR/St/CS:  (8 February 63)

25X1A

**SECRET**